

Close your eyes and keep your mind wide open

About Ms. Nakaya and her Japanese Education and Culture class

Where there is a will, there is a way. But when you get too many wills, how to build as many ways as possible, nobody could tell. And that is exactly the reason why I got myself in a mass before came to Japan. I was too lonely to stop filling in myself with various wills, but always unable to find enough ways out for those wills in time. So I think maybe I need to be refreshed.

I have never thought that it is Ms. Nakaya who enter the key of 「reset」 on my body computer, at least at the very beginning. Ms. Nakaya is the teacher of the Japanese Education and Culture class carried out by International Students Center, and when I take the IC examination and got a record of Level 4, actually I could not intend more than just the language itself studying from all the classes provided. But Ms. Nakaya and her class surprised me with a fully new style of Japanese teach-and-learn method which is absolutely different from vocabulary-grammar Test Sea. We learn from events. Not historic events only, but also the society common events happened maybe just from your surroundings. Usually, Ms. Nakaya would first have us to read some information she brought about a specific topic or event, in turn and loudly. While reading them, “Keep your mind wide open.” So you would surely get some feelings or thoughts about the thing you read. Then she would set examples from her acquaintances or sometimes herself. And then we would have a wide-ranging discussion, everybody told his or her opinions. It is always so funny because we will find so many differences from each other, some of what you may have never even think of once. Finally, we were asked to write something on which you felt most interested in among all that class’s discussion. As above we do all the things of reading, listening, speaking and writing in this one hour and a half, to make the class effectively used.

A person killed himself. If he is a novel writer or a film director, the reason may be able to be concluded to some mental defect. If he is a blue collar or a freeter, maybe it’s because society problem or life stress. But do you know what a child think when he wants to end his own life? “I’ve once written that kind of note.” Ms. Nakaya laughed as her talking: “About ‘Sorry, daddy and mummy, I am not a smart child so I’d better die’ and so on. But of course did not really do as it. Although there did exist some children who really do as it.” We all yipped and could not wait to tell what suicide things’ like in our own countries.

Sometimes we also discuss so-called sensitive topics like wars between Japan and China in the old days. And Ms. Nakaya would ask questions which are hard to consider and properly be answered, too. Like “Do you hate Japanese guys?” The answers she got would be multifarious. “Yes, of course. I image the things they do are unforgivable.” A thin, girlish boy said. “I prefer a viewpoint that the government is the first one who should be blamed, not the people.” said a girl who looked very modish. And of course I will never forget my own reply: “I think it’s equal. Japan set the war and killed a lot of Chinese. So it got two atomic bombs at the end of WW2. God did the balance.” Ms. Nakaya generally nodded while listening and smiled as she had taken a tumble after we finished.

So it may easy for you to understand why we always get active classes. Ms. Nakaya talks

with us intimately, without even a little distance. And what's more, there's seldom right and wrong in your response. You just tell what you think, that's all. So we can find common interests at almost all time. We talk over on the differences of our text books in middle and high school between different countries (Ms. Nakaya even 'steal' some text books from her daughter in order to set Japanese samples for us). We do research and compare the number of people who go to history museums and war museums, to approve how much effect museum has brought for peace. We even debate about one of Japan's social problem -いじめ in school mostly are came out because of the circumstance or the individual himself.

As we get so hot in discussion, usually also have a lot to write right before the class ended. And I am always the last one to finish my work. I really wrote many things about my life and ideas: what I find new in Japan; my larruping view on suicide; and, of course, my confusion of wills that I can't find ways for. I wrote about the company I found by myself which went to be a failure within not more than one year. I also wrote about the novel I wrote and the small number of fans it got who can be counted by a hand. At last, I sum up to self-mockery, "It is common to say that when God closes a door, somewhere he opens a window. But it can obviously be seen that the window is too hard for me to find out." Ms. Nakaya's reply is a face-to-face talk before the next class when she had read my words." Crystal is quite too impressionable, and may easy get hurt. Maybe the situation now is indeed like what you said, but anyway it won't be in the same way forever. Just don't forget: will is a good thing, maybe the best in the world."

So as the students in the class may all remember the sentence" Close your eyes and keep your mind wide open", I get one more firmly in my memory:" Will is a good thing, maybe the best in the world." And I will treat it as a best present I've ever been given in Japan. By the way, actually, Ms. Nakaya also has her childish aspect, maybe. When we finished our last lesson, she asked a question which she'd been curious with for a long time: "As you all were the students of Level4, but why I did seldom see any mistake in your composition? Why? So much advancement in this semester?"

...my dear teacher Ms. Nakaya, writing is different from speaking, we've got CASIO E-dictionary everyone...